

FOCUS

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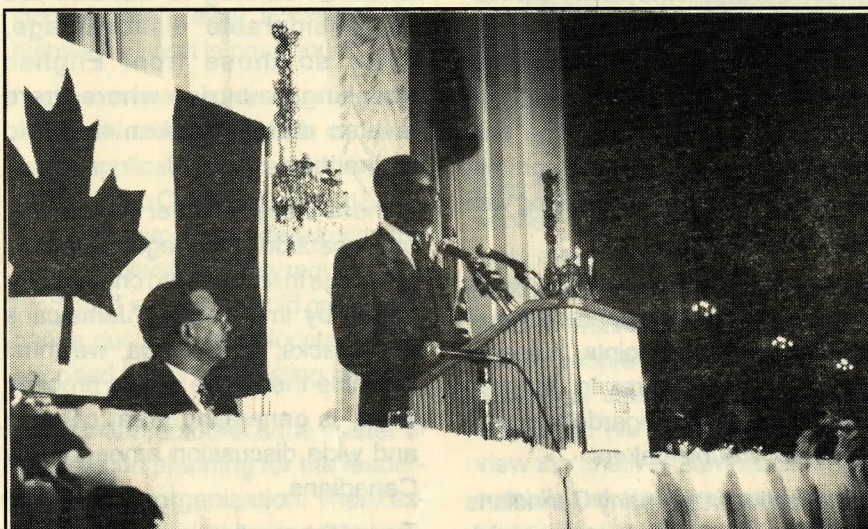
JCA APPROVED FOR CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING

By: Karl Fuller

The Ministry of Housing has given the Jamaican Canadian Association approval for a non-profit housing project. The approval signifies an allocation of up to 60 units under *Ebony Co-operative Homes Inc.* Recently, members of the JCA Co-op Board attended an interview at the Ministry and both the written submission and the interview were well received. It is now up to the JCA to identify a suitable site within Metropolitan Toronto to construct this building. The identification of a suitable site should occur within a time frame of nine months.

It is apparent that the development of a housing project will embark the Association on a long uphill journey. The initiatives we are about to undertake will impact profoundly on our community in years to come. Members will have to exercise great patience, since the process requires careful planning, and we must avoid hasty and ill-conceived actions.

We congratulate the members of the *JCA Co-op Housing Committee* who have worked tirelessly and relentlessly over the past months in order to achieve government approval for this project. One can safely say that the reward justifies the commitment, dedication, and persistence displayed by these members.



Jamaican Prime Minister: P. J. Patterson addresses Jamaican Canadians at the Canadian Club

ZERO TOLERANCE! WHAT'S THAT?

BY ERMA COLLINS

"Knife-wielding Pupil, 13, Faces Expulsion Hearing"; "Seventh Student Gets Boot From City (Scarborough) School System"; "Violent 4-Year-Olds to Be Sent to Special Class." Like mine, your attention may have been caught by headlines like the foregoing in a number of recent "zero tolerance" news items. What's going on? Why? Since it became effective in December of 1993, the Scarborough Board of Education's "**Safe School Policy on Violence and Weapons**" has had a lot of publicity and reaction; however, there is more to the "zero tolerance" issue. In November of 1993,

the Ontario Minister of Education and Training, Dave Cook, announced strategies to address violence in Ontario schools; in March, April, and May this year, community

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PUBLIC PAYS FOR POLICE PARANOIA!

Metro Police Chief Bill McCormack may have good reasons why he feels that it is okay for himself to be investigated. However, the majority of Canadians, if not all, with the exception of the Chief, reject being investigated by anyone, including the police, without legitimate causes.

Over the past several months we have heard that some prominent individuals have been investigated by the Metro Police, the latest of whom is Metro Toronto Police Services Board Chairperson, Susan Eng. The only crime these individuals have committed was criticizing or disagreeing with police practices.

Apparently the police are not open to criticism nor are they appreciative of other people's viewpoints. It seems that anyone who dares to disagree with the police are regarded as anti-police and troublemakers.

The questions that many Canadians are asking is: should taxpayers pick up the tab for police paranoia?

The Chief's attempt to divert attention is both absurd and a tired joke. There are some serious questions to be answered by him and by our provincial government. Are the chief and his subordinates treating us all like criminals? Who or what gave the police the right to investigate law-abiding citizens? What is the purpose of intelligence gathering on people who haven't broken the law? Does this mean that in the case of civil unrest these are the first people to be detained for questioning? How long will the information gathered be on active file? Where is the money coming from to do this unnecessary work?

How can the chief expect the Metro public to take seriously his views about the inability of the police to function adequately as a result of cutbacks to

the amount of government funding that they receive, if this is how they choose to spend their funds? The chief should be aware that from now on it may be difficult to gain sympathy from the over-taxed public.

ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMMES NEEDED IN SCHOOLS

Children coming to Canada are at considerable disadvantage, more so those from English speaking countries where there is also dialect spoken to avoid formalities.

In these times of higher intolerance, over-reaction and negative media coverage in response to crimes committed by immigrants, "Jamaicans and Blacks," in Canada, we must examine the cause of this problem which is generating great concern and wide discussion among many Canadians.

Two of the most serious crimes committed in recent months were the *Just Desserts* shooting and the shooting of a police officer. We were told by the news media, who one could assume got their information from immigration officials, that the suspects came to Canada when they were 8 to 9 years old.

Similar to these suspects, many immigrants come to Canada during the early years of their lives. When they arrive here they are reuniting with families they have been estranged from for several years.

They have to adjust to a new and different school environment which makes little or no effort to assist them in making the transition, because it is assumed that they speak English. There is little or no flexibility in addressing their language needs. However, the children have real dif-

ficulties understanding their teachers and vice versa.

These children have no friends, neither at home nor at school. Basically, they spend a lot of time in isolation from other students during breaks, before and after classes.

Without assistance and encouragement, these children are the ones likely to fall through the cracks. Out of desperation, they will try to hang on to any alternatives to school presented to them. Hence, dropping out of school is usually their first option. Once they drop out of school, school activities will likely be replaced by others that often times bring them in contact with the law.

The Honourable Sergio Marchi, Immigration Minister of Canada, according to a report in the *Toronto Star* on

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Guilt by Association?
Watch what you say and
where you say it.
You are being monitored -
all because you are what
you are.

InFocus
Published by:
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Following is the text of a report given by the Jamaican Canadian Association President at the quarterly membership meeting in August 1994.

I wish to address some matters which impact upon our position within the community and the future role which we are expected to play.

Re-location of the JCA Centre is our main concern at this time. At our quarterly meeting in May, it was requested by members that we should consider options and present them for review. As a result of discussion with members, two possibilities have emerged.

1. Purchase a building and renovate it to meet our needs.
2. Purchase a piece of land and construct our own building.

Each option has advantages and disadvantages. Many buildings on the real estate market require extensive modifications in order to meet our needs, and the cost involved is enormous. But let's address the question of our need. A team of us met with an architect a few weeks ago to discuss where we are and where we want to be.

We estimated our minimum functional needs to be:

- twice the current office space
- twice the current meeting space
- one and a half times the current auditorium space
- some recreation space for activities (such as pool or table tennis)

The total land space required for this is approximately 20,000 square feet of useable space. Purchasing the land and constructing the building will cost approximately \$1.5 million.

Renovation cost is difficult to predict in the absence of an identified building. However, it is estimated that the purchase and renovation of an exist-

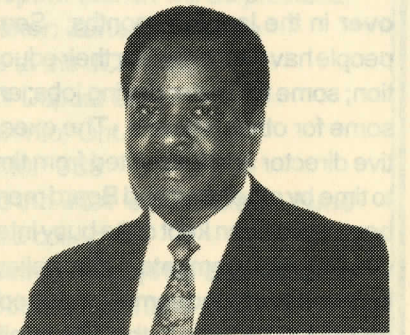
ing building with an acre of land would result in 10-15% cheaper cost than the new structure.

We have identified a preferred boundary to be Victoria Park to Jane Street and from St. Clair Avenue to Steeles. Note that these are preferred boundaries and we could consider locations beyond these if other factors justified that decision. Accessibility to public transportation is essential to our decision. As well, easy access to the highway system is paramount.

I have commenced discussion with a provincial ministry officials concerning an application for assistance from Jobs Ontario Community Action Fund. I am in the process of developing the business plan which they require. This funding, if secured, would greatly enhance our ability to relocate but we still need to sell the existing building.

I also want to address the matter of succession planning for the leadership of your organization. There exists a critical need for us to engage in an ongoing search for capable and committed persons to accept board responsibilities for the future. Many of our current board members have indicated an unwillingness to continue beyond their current term of office. Leadership responsibilities have expanded significantly over the past years and we need to have reasonable time in order to test the commitment and capabilities of individuals to whom we will entrust leadership. I am recommending that the search and nominating committee be established now so that adequate time will be available for internal and external search.

Finally, the summer activities with which we are involved are very demanding and many of us are feeling the effects of their exhaustive calendar. There was the picnic in July, the



Karl Fuller: JCA's President

Flag-Raising Ceremony, and church service in July and Independence Gala event in August. Added to that is the summer Employment Programs which placed close to 250 young people in jobs. This imposed additional tasks upon some board members. We need to seriously review the chain of summer events to establish whether there can be some curtailment. I am requesting that the appropriate officer convenes a joint committee meeting during September to review these and other matters, aimed at improving the Association's effectiveness as we serve the community.

THE EVA SMITH BURSARY

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 1, 1994
8:00 P.M.

at 1621 Dupont Street

All are invited.

For more information
please call:

(416) 292-5390

TIDBITS FROM THE DESK OF THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

By Erma Collins

STAFF MATTERS

JCA has had quite a bit of **staff turnover** in the last few months. Some people have left to further their education; some for better paying jobs; and some for other reasons. The executive director and I, assisted from time to time by other staff and Board members, have been kept quite busy interviewing replacements. We believe that we have found some good people and welcome them to the JCA family. We trust that you will also.

On July 26, I visited the **Toronto West Detention Centre**, along with the executive director and the acting manager of the Caribbean Youth and Family Services (CYFS), to observe how our program there with black male youths is being carried out. (There is also a women's program there, but it was not the focus of that visit.) The West Detention Centre is a maximum holding facility (few weeks to years) for about 600 to 700 people who have committed crimes ranging from traffic violations to murder; and it is the only holding centre that accommodates women and young offenders. My overall impression is that the programming is limited (high school courses [except things like chemistry or physics], recreational activities, drug counselling, a chapel).

In an evaluation subsequently sent to Horace Wright, whom we have since confirmed as manager of the CYFS, the program is given high praise. "What makes this program unique is that it is culturally specific," writes the evaluator. "This Afro-Caribbean program offers Caribbean and Black youths a sense of belonging...Material discussed is always well researched and addressed in a positive manner...The agency also acts as a bridge, as the staff work with offend-

ers and their families after release...Agency staff have also attended court on the offenders' behalf and are familiar with the criminal justice system...Professionalism has always been displayed by the agency staff...In fact, institutional staff have given praise to the work done by the agency. This is evidenced by the offenders' behaviours and attitudes after a program. They are more positive and more compliant. They also seem to have direction and begin to develop plans to change their lives in order to become law-abiding contributing members of society." Hats off to our JCA staff.

This year, JCA again participated in the **JOY Program** (Jobs Ontario Youth). Managed by Dianne Carter, our agency placed 217 youths into summer jobs: 103 males and 114 females; 152 over 18 years of age and 65 under 18. IBM provided full subsidy for 4 participants and Oshawa Foods provided full subsidy for one participant. The jobs covered many fields: clerical, events organizing, marketing, recreation, tutoring, computers, accounting, customer service, tour guide, automotive repair, mechanics helper, and so on. As you know, the program is geared specifically to youths facing systemic barriers to employment, so JCA program staff organized workshops aimed at further enhancing the youths' job hunting and maintenance skills. I gave a workshop to 72 students on "The Hidden Job Market." If you are wondering why so few students under 18 were placed, part of the answer lies with the fact that many employers ask for people with skills. Thanks to the JOY staff for a job well done.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

JCA now has a **Pay Equity Plan**, thanks to work done by Karl Fuller,

Hyacinth Wilson, the Executive Director and I (co-ordinator for the project). Like other public sector employers, we will soon have to start working on an **Employment Equity Plan**.

JCA also has a revised and more comprehensive "**Policies and Procedures Manual**," for the guidance of staff and Board members. The principal players in getting this done for the review and approval of the Board were the executive director, Hyacinth Wilson, Cyndi Anderson and I (also co-ordinator for this project).

VISIT / LUNCHEON SPEECH OF JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER

As you know, last month, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, P.J. Patterson, paid his first official visit to Canada in that role. Although the media reports were about his comments on immigration, he spoke mostly about economic matters when I heard him at the Canadian Club luncheon.

He stressed that Jamaica has experienced positive economic growth for the eighth consecutive year, 1.2% in 1993; that the country has been reducing its external debt load and, in the process, improving its credit worthiness; that the dollar is relatively stable; that in the 1993 fiscal year, the Net International reserves were positive for the first time in 18 years and are currently at plus U.S.\$175 million, from minus U.S.\$808 million just ten years ago; that Jamaica has been achieving or surpassing IMF targets, and the government is planning to make the current program last, since the IMF's onerous conditions impede growth and development. In short, Jamaica is open for business and is seeking and will welcome investments from individuals and institutions in

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CALENDAR / Events

Adjust: Continued from Page 2.

June 23, 1994, acknowledged that suspected murderer Clinton Gayle is as much a product of Canada as he is of the country where he was born. However, what is needed is much more than acknowledgement. These young immigrants need to be shown greater sensitivity both at home and at school. Homes must try to accommodate the new immigrant with the view that regardless of the type of relationship maintained while there was separation among family members, the new relationship can never be the same as the one that was prior to the separation.

Schools, which are institutions of learning, must ensure that children do learn; and that means new immigrants should be given all the help available to facilitate their adjustment in a new environment.

There should be programs to address language skills, befriending, upgrading and behavior. Children should be encouraged to participate in and take advantage of such programs.

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Ms. Kathy Strachan:

Financial Advisor with *Crown Life Insurance Company* holds a degree in business and has been working in the financial service industry for several years.

Kathy's goal is to share her knowledge, talents and experience with her community so that it can become financially independent.

**For free financial advice please call:
(416) 535-4476.**

Service is by appointment only.

Drug Awareness Conference

Saturday October 22, 1994

From 9:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. (Lunch will be provided)

Keynote Speaker: Zanana Akande

To be held at the JCA center

1621 Dupont St.

Toronto, Ont.

M6P 3S8

A voluntary donation to the **JCA's Relocation Fund** will be collected.

For registration please call: (416) 535-4476

Before October 15, 1994.

1994 EVENTS CALENDAR J.C.A.'s UPCOMING EVENTS

Please detach and keep handy at a prominent place or note on your calendar.

September 18, 1994 Seniors' Dinner (Membership)
October 15, 1994 John Brooks Scholarship
..... Awards (Holiday Inn)
October 23, 1994 Credit Union Dinner
October 30, 1994 JCA Education Conference
November 27, 1994 Quarterly Membership Meeting
December 4, 1994 Children's Christmas Party
December 31, 1994 New Year's Eve Dinner and
..... Dance

BINGO DATES: 1994

Date	Time	Coordinator
September 03 ..	11:30 - 01:30	M. Amiel
September 16 ..	07:15 - 09:45	M. Bailey
September 24 ..	02:00 - 04:00	K. Fuller
October 08 ...	11:30 - 01:30	B. Carter
October 16 ...	02:00 - 04:00	M. Amiel
October 28 ...	07:15 - 09:45	M. Bailey
November 04 ..	07:15 - 09:45	M. Bailey
November 12 ..	11:30 - 01:30	K. Fuller
November 19 ..	02:00 - 04:00	B. Carter
December 03 ..	02:00 - 04:00	M. Amiel
December 09 ..	07:15 - 09:45	M. Bailey

FAMILY SERVICE WORKER AT C.Y.F.S.

As of May 16, 1994, I took over the position of Family Services Worker. Although I have only been in the position as of May, the JCA is not a new environment for me. I have previously worked for the Association as a Jobs



Sandra Biggs

Ontario Youth Co-ordinator. The position was a good introduction into the policies and practices of the JCA.

I currently work out of the Caribbean Youth and Family Services office. My work allows me to utilize my psychology background, while satisfying my interest in sociology. I currently have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. I am attending York University part-time to obtain a certificate in Race

Relations. My future goal is to work for the Human Rights Commission.

My work experience has exposed me to various environments. I have previously worked in a group home, as a counsellor for Jobs Ontario Youth, and at

Thistletown Regional Centre for Adolescents.

My work at the CYFS office has given me the opportunity to do everything I have wanted to do. It allows me to work in the community, provide counselling, work with families in need, and liaise with various school boards.

I hope to continue my work at CYFS in a fashion that maintains the reputation of the JCA.

Executive Report Continues

Ontario Training and Development Board (OTAB) recently approved one of the two applications for administrative assistance. The approved position is for head office. There has been no decision to date on the second position at CYFS. However, we are hopeful that it will also be approved.

Summer Programs: The five students funded by the Summer Employment Experience Development program have successfully completed their outreach/advocacy in the respective areas of AIDS, Drugs, Literacy, and Urban Crime. A series of seminars and workshops were conducted, and presentations were made by the participants at our summer camp locales.

The **Environmental Youth Corps** program was also a success. The two students on this program provided good research and information to our community. Based on the research and advocacy, principals are encouraged to reactivate cancelled environmental programs in the Lawrence Heights community.

ISAP: Changes to the ISAP program were discussed at a meeting of the counsellors, current representatives, and myself. Major changes to the program will take effect this fall; supervision will be conducted by Immigration and Citizenship Canada.

Ms. Todd, who was introduced as the representative to the program, later met with Cyndi, Karl, and me to discuss future financial management of the program.

The principal of Porter Collegiate has agreed to let us continue to use the space at that institution indefinitely for our Scarborough ISAP office.

Fund-raising Campaign: Eighty foundations have been targeted for

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Haari Korrat, Executive Director

It was a busy summer for all of us at the Jamaican Canadian Association. We delivered summer programmes from all three locations. In addition to the JOY Program, there were the Summer Camp, the Environmental Programme, and the Summer Employment Experience Development Programme.

We have experienced many changes in our staff and will be starting the fall with many new faces.

Resignations and Terminations: Resignations were received from four staff members: Charmaine Peart, Verolin Ricketts-Spence, and Esther Daniels; they will be pursuing higher education in various fields, such as masters in social work and law. Andrea McFarlane, a part-time worker, assumed full-time employment elsewhere.

The 93/94 contracts for the two administrative staff persons under the Social Service Education Program (SSEP) ended August 2, 1994.

New Employees: To date, four new employees have been hired to fill the vacant positions: ISAP and Community Service Worker - CYFS; Counsellor, Domestic/Sexual Abuse Program, and Financial Co-ordinator - Head Office.

Two part-time employees were also hired: Program Assistant - for the fund-raising campaign to foundations and corporations and a Sexual Abuse/ Incest Counsellor. Extra funding received from United Way and a grant from the City of Toronto enabled us to hire these persons. >>>

Continued on page 7.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT



Participants of events at the JCA Picnic

By: Herman Stewart

The Membership Committee participated in the following activities during the last quarter:

Membership Appreciation Night: On Friday, June 3 we held a wine and cheese get-together to welcome and orientate new members. There was a good turnout, and based on the feedback members would like us to hold more of this kind of event.

Annual Picnic: This year's picnic was a success. We had five busses although the fifth bus had only 16 passengers. The activities all went off without any problems. Participation in all events was up from the previous year. Noteworthy is the fact that the men took time out from domino playing to easily defeat the women in the tug-of-war.

Suggestions for consideration: There should only be two vendor locations: the JCA office and one in Mississauga; Tickets should be paid for when taken from the vendor. We should consider a fund raising event to take place in the winter to help with the cost and to keep ticket prices down.

We are considering going to Fanshawe Pioneer Village in London next year.

Annual Awards: The following awards were presented at our independence/anniversary gala.

Community Award: Don Panos
President's Award: Joan Young, Winsome Cain

25 Year Membership: Donald Biggs, Anthony Biggs, Joe Cross, Erma Collins, Trevor Lewis, Horace Neita

Senior's Dinner: This year's dinner will take place on *Sunday, September 19 at 2 pm*. As usual we are looking for sponsors.

Membership Recruitment: In July, I was given an opportunity to speak to approximately 75 JCA summer students regarding a JCA youth wing. Some 60 of the students submitted their names and addresses and as a result I have sent them a questionnaire about the formation of a youth wing.

Upcoming Activities: Membership Appreciation Night: Pending. Bus Trip to Windsor Casino. **We continue to send condolences and get well wishes to affected members.**

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Continued from page 6.

approach and mailing, to be completed by September 15, 1994. Thirty corporations were targeted. However, due to United Way Blackout (Sept. 1 to Nov. 30) we can only conduct a campaign to foundations during this period. Foundations usually meet on a quarterly basis; our applications will be reviewed at the November/December meetings and results from the first mailings should be forthcoming in early 1995. Correspondence to corporations will be done after November 30, 1994, along with another mailing to twenty foundations. Request for grants will be for both operational and specific projects (i.e. seniors program, education, and camps).

come grow
with us

meetings on the subject were held across the province. School boards have been directed to (1) develop violence prevention policies; (2) develop procedures for reporting violent incidents to the police and to the Ministry of Education and Training; and (3) develop programs for students suspended or expelled for violent behaviour. "It is time for us to say that education is too important to be sidetracked by violent behaviour," said Mr. Cooke. "The problem of school violence is not simple, but neither is it hopeless; and our best chances lie in building partnerships and working together to implement these policies."

The **deadlines** have not yet arrived, however. School boards are expected to begin development of violence prevention policies (or review existing ones) by September of this year. Policies are to be submitted to the Ministry for approval by June 1995. School boards are to begin implementing their violence-prevention policies no later than September of 1995. We know, though, that Scarborough's policy is already in place and that the Toronto Board has approved a policy that will segregate violent children as young as four.

What are the **highlights** of the **Scarborough policy**? The policy allows the board to **suspend** or **expel** students who carry weapons of violence or who are violent. "**Suspension**" will be for a definite period of time, 3 to 20 days, depending on the severity of the offence. "**Expulsion**" permanently bans a child from attending school. But does not the Education Act require that students attend school until they are at least 16? Yes, except that a student can be expelled if his conduct is so "refractory" (resistant to discipline) that it causes injury to others. A principal can suspend but not expel. A principal,

supported by a supervisory officer of the Board, can recommend expulsion to the trustees, who will then consider the evidence presented to them by the principal and make a decision. The student may be represented by legal counsel at the hearing. An expelled student may later apply for readmittance to the board that expelled him/her; however, the board has the discretion to readmit or not. A student expelled by one board can seek admittance to other school boards in the province, but they have no obligation to accept the student.

Violence or threatening behaviour by students in school or at school-sponsored or supervised activities will cause the policy to kick in. Students will be **suspended** if they are involved in **fighting, threatening, or verbally abusing** other students or school staff; as well if they are caught, for the first time, in possession of a **non-prohibited weapon** (e.g. kitchen knives, hunting knives, pocket jackknives, sling shots, chisels, ice picks, screw drivers, and anything that can be used as a weapon). **The police may be involved.**

In addition to **suspension**, the **police definitely shall be involved** if one or more students attack another student or a staff member, or if they sexually threaten or assault others, whether provoked or not.

Students will not only earn the **maximum suspension**, but will also be **recommended for expulsion**, and the **police shall be involved**, if found in possession of a **non-prohibited weapons for the second time**; if found in possession of a **firearm or replica** of a firearm; if found in possession of a prohibited weapon (e.g. switchblade knives, butterfly knives, mace, nunchaka sticks and a variety of other martial arts weapons); **if they use any weapon or replica** in a threatening manner; if they assault another person with a weapon or replica; and if they **inflict serious**

injury that require medical attention.

The Scarborough Board of Education has stated that it developed this policy because it feels that with violence on the increase in society, there is a need to ensure that its schools remain safe and secure environments for learning. It recently announced that starting in September of 1994, it will have been given 20-day suspensions; it announced no alternative for expelled students. No one, I believe, can argue with the right of students and staff to learn and work in schools where they feel safe and are safe. After all, we want safety in all our own workplaces. There are, however, **some questions to be asked** of the Scarborough Board, other boards that have yet to develop their policies, and the Ministry. Are there situations in the schools that cause some students to feel the need to protect themselves? What are those situations, and what are the schools doing to eliminate them? What if a student has actually tried to use school staff to help to resolve conflicts, but has been silenced or ignored? Should "zero tolerance" be relevant in his/her case? Do some teachers and administrators perpetrate psychological violence against some students? Is the Scarborough Board solving a problem, or is it contributing to an even greater one by implementing its policy before establishing alternative programs for suspended/expelled students? Should the Ministry of Education and Training be allowing any Board to implement "zero tolerance" before it has established alternative programs?

These are just some of the questions we should be asking our politicians and educators. As parents and/or taxpayers, it is our duty to become active partners with our school boards by raising these questions, to ensure that they serve all children well; that the difficult ones are moulded, disciplined and educated, not thrown away and ignored.

JCA appreciates the Support of its members!

32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY The Jamaican Canadian Association Services

Community Development focuses on networking, sharing of information and resources with others in the interests of the community.

Settlement services provides information, orientation and settlement services to landed immigrants or holders of Minister's permits.

Caribbean Youth and Family Services provides counselling; employment preparation; Socio-cultural support and leadership for Black youth aged 12 - 15, living primarily in the Jane-Finch neighbourhood; Advocacy and educational support to students. integration Services for young offenders; and coordinates the PAL program, which matches adult volunteers with young people in need of or seeking guidance.

Lawrence Heights Youth Program, a satellite program, run by the Afrocentric Achievement Society, includes the "Shoot for a Career" project (combining sports with academics) and "Project ROJ" (Reading On the Job), which, integrates personal development with cultural reinforcement.

For more information on the above services, please contact: **The JCA Office**, 1621 Dupont Street, Toronto, Ontario M6P 3S8

Telephone: (416) 535-4476 or;

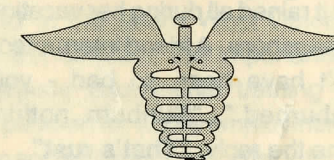
The CYFS office, 2065 Finch Ave. W., Suite 102, Downsview, Ontario M3N 2V7

Telephone: (416) 740-1558

A decision has to be made about A.I.D.S.

Being infected or affected, you must take responsibility for your own actions! Because they will affect the people closest to you. Our Black communities are being affected negatively by our own denial regarding A.I.D.S..

For more information on this subject please contact: **Black C.A.P.**
(416) 971-7588



The **Black Coalition for A.I.D.S. Prevention** is a coalition of Black community organizations who come together to address the issue of A.I.D.S in our communities.

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THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

By Pauline Tomlinson:
Executive Secretary

It was soul-stirring and refreshing to listen to the Prime Minister P.J. Patterson's comments in response to the media furor that accompanied the "Just Desserts" shooting and the shooting of a Toronto Policeman.

In the aftermath of the murders, there were many negative comments concerning Jamaica and Jamaicans. The Canadian Government's immigration policy was seen as the reason for the upswing in criminal activity and effective deportation as the answer to ridding the society of "Jamaican criminals."

Many in the Black Community responded to the media's report concerning the murders. We expressed sympathy for the deceased persons' families (and rightly so); we apologized for our criminals; we condemned the actions of the perpetrators. However, in our efforts to be politically correct, few members of the Black community in Toronto addressed the social and economic problems that contribute to crime; few emphasized the fact that the perpetrators had migrated from Jamaica as children and had therefore spent many of their formative years as Canadians.

How satisfying it was therefore to listen to the Prime Minister imploring the Canadian Government to pay attention to the social ills in the Canadian milieu that contribute to criminal activity and not to attempt to resolve the problem through deportation. The Prime Minister suggested that the deportation to Jamaica of criminals who have no social and family support systems in Jamaica and are unfamiliar with the Jamaican way of life contribute further to crime in Jamaica, while not solving it in Canada.

I commend the Prime Minister for his courage, insight and frankness. His comments were most effective and gained prominent media coverage. I hope that, in future, we the Black community will provide more in-depth analysis and response in a similar situation.

Caribbean Canadian Seniors Group

1621 Dupont Street
(JCA Centre)

**Mondays/Tuesdays/
Thursdays
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**We welcome all seniors who
would like to get out and
meet others.**

**Our activities include:
sewing, knitting, art and
crafts, choral group,
various types of group
discussions, seminars,
and field trips.**

**Come and meet people who
will treat you like a family
and a friend.**

**For more information,
please call us at:
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FUNNY FOOTNOTES

By Ms. Theodora Briscoe

Have you ever thought what Swiss Cheese might smell like if it were not ventilated???

Some people are easily entertained; all you have to do is sit down and listen to them.

Too bad that marriage ceremonies now omit the word "obey"; *it was the only touch of humour in the whole affair.*

My aunt and I were discussing the latest problems of her somewhat wayward daughter. My aunt shook her head sadly and said, "we named her **Helen Joy**, and, you know it's been just that ever since."

The woman had been complaining that it rained all during her vacation at the seashore. A friend interrupted, "it can't have been so bad - you're sunburned."... "Sunburn nothing," came the reply, "**That's rust**"

The defendant looked up at the bench and told his honour: "As God is my judge, I do not owe this tax."... Replied the Judge: "**He's not, I am, You do.**"

A man who decided that a hearing aid was too expensive got an ordinary piece of wire and wrapped it around his ear ... "Surely that wire around your ear doesn't make you hear better." A friend said. "No," he admitted, "**but it makes everybody talk louder.**"

Tidbits: From Page 4.

Canada. **Opportunities exist in tourism; agribusiness** (processed foods, gourmet items, etc.); **manufacturing** (furniture, footwear, pharmaceuticals, electronics, etc.); **information processing, and telemarketing.** Jamaica is seeking partners so that it can quicken the pace of economic and human development.

JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION RUNS A.C.I.S.S. AT TORONTO JAIL

By: Stella Johnson and
Janice Daley

An increase in excessive media coverage of unfortunate offenses committed by a small percentage of Afro-Canadian males only adds fuel to the fire which gives credence to stereotypes that exist today.

The newest most informative program at the Toronto Jail is the Afro-Canadian Inmate Support Services. The intent of this program is to increase inmates' knowledge of resources in the community prior to release, in order to enhance their transition and reintegration process. This is achieved through group and/or one-on-one counselling.

A.C.I.S.S., similar to the program offered at the Metro West Detention Centre, stresses the importance of adequate educational training and preparation for future employment. It also serves as an avenue for information and referral services concerning housing, obtaining financial assistance and legal representation. A.C.I.S.S. provides information that will assist inmates to cope with the stress of prison life, thus refocuses their energies into building their self-esteem.

The implementation of the Toronto Jail Pilot Project Proposal, A.C.I.S.S., is one of many examples of the successful programs currently in effect, associated with JCA. The agreement between JCA and the Toronto Jail was to run from April to June, but given the increase in demand, we are currently considering the extension of the program which will be run by qualified and experienced volunteers with the supervision of the Manager of C.Y.F.S., Horace Wright. Stella Johnson and Janice Daley, founders and volunteers, conducted weekly

workshops with inmates. Workshop preparation involves extensive and accurate research.

According to volunteer coordinator, Leslie Honey, the outstanding performance of the current volunteers has resulted in A.C.I.S.S. becoming among the top ten most requested programs within the short span of an eight week period.

JCA has served the Afro-Canadian

community for more than thirty years and will continue to do so in the future. Their continuous objective is to meet the changing needs within the community.

With the dedication on the part of the executives as well as the volunteers, the continuous success of JCA is inevitable. A.C.I.S.S. is a good example.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS: Please be informed that **the fiscal year-end** of the *Jamaican Canadian Association* has been changed to March 31st. **The next Annual General Meeting will be held in May 1995.** Notice of the Meeting will be sent prior to that time.

1994 U.N. "THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY"

A COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

By Ms. Throdora Briscoe

We are becoming more and more focused on the social problems of our community. Whether we want to know or not, the news media, in their own way are constantly saying "In Your Face."

Families everywhere are changing: parents work; grandparents often live in another country; more families are headed by a single parent; the population is getting older.

Although we know that times are changing, often we become aware of the effects of those changes on families only after problems have emerged. Violence is increasing. We tend to find excuses for this problem within our community, but how can we work towards a goal of lessening violence?

We assume that kids are "Up To No Good" when we see them hanging around shopping malls and street corners.

What opportunities exist for teens to be contributing, active participants in their communities? How can communities and families work together

to increase teenagers' sense of belonging and self-esteem?

We need to encourage families to work together through a "Kitchen Table Discussion" to formulate plans for their children's well being. A kitchen table discussion is a small group of people talking together; they are not experts in family psychology and child development. They are ordinary folks like you and me, people who live in families, work with families, or are concerned about families, and who are interested in the relationship between healthy families and communities.

Once you begin to sit and talk together you'll be surprised how easily it is to map out your agenda.

Just remember: "**We Are Each Others Keepers**"

If we think there is a problem, then let's make it our problem and find ways to encourage families to work together, not pointing fingers, but strategize to erase or lessen the problems.

THE CANADIAN CLUB WELCOMES JCA MEMBERS

By Pauline Tomlinson

A fellow Jamaican, Herb Phillips, is the President of the prestigious Canadian Club. The Canadian Club has an exemplary record as the premier speaker's platform in Canada. Its members number 1200 and include a number of business, political, media, and cultural leaders. Recently our Jamaican Prime Minister was the guest and spoke very eloquently and frankly on issues in Toronto which have implicated the Jamaican community.

The Canadian Club of Toronto is very interested in expanding its membership to reflect the current diverse culture in Toronto. In this regard, members of the Jamaican Canadian Association are being offered membership in the club at a reduced rate. Current membership rate is \$45 for a season. Jamaican Canadian Association members are being offered membership at \$25 for the season.

The Board of Directors sees this as an opportunity for members of the Jamaican Canadian Association. As we seek to grow as an organization, membership in the Canadian Club can definitely enhance this growth. We can also take pride in the fact that one of our very own Jamaicans is now President of this club.

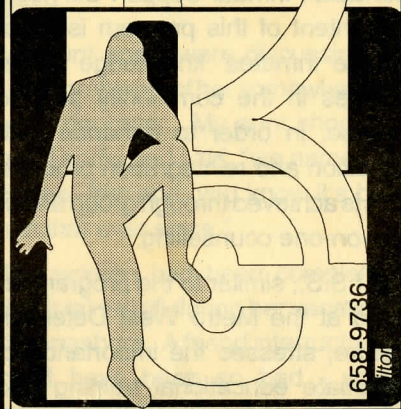
Membership forms can be obtained at JCA office at 1621 Dupont Street, phone 535-4476.

Working together to serve you better!



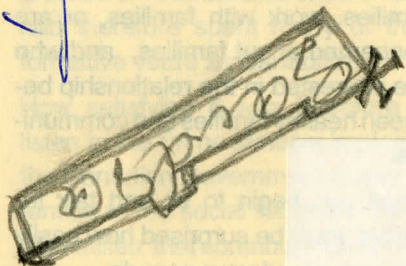
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